United States Patent [19]

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[54] **CIGARETTE COUNTING CASE**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] **B65D 85/10**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **206/266;** 116/129 S; 116/133; 131/170 A; 206/236; 206/459; 221/7; 235/1 C

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 116/73, 120, 129 S, 116/133; 235/91 R, 104 B, 91 B, 1 C, 114; 131/8 R, 170 R, 170 A, 178; 206/265, 266, 268, 242, 236, 38, 459, 86, 534; 221/2, 7, 8

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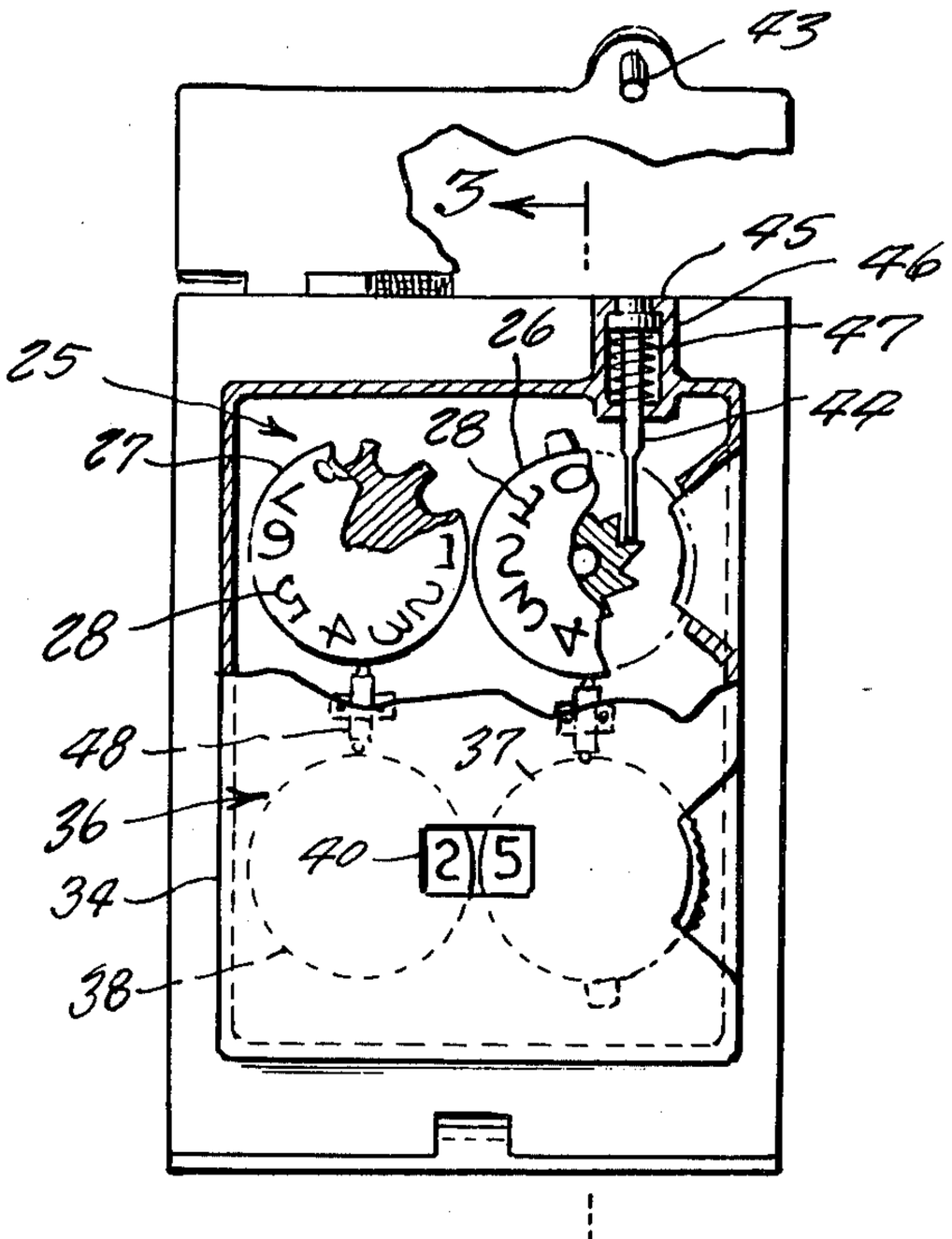
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A case for containing a pack of cigarettes, the case including a counting mechanism which counts the number of times that the case is opened up so to remove a cigarette from the pack, thus enabling a smoker, who wished to cut down on his smoking habit, to keep track of the number of cigarettes being smoked during a current day, the counting mechanism also having a counter that records the number of cigarettes smoked on a previous day for purposes of comparison.

1 Claim, 3 Drawing Figures



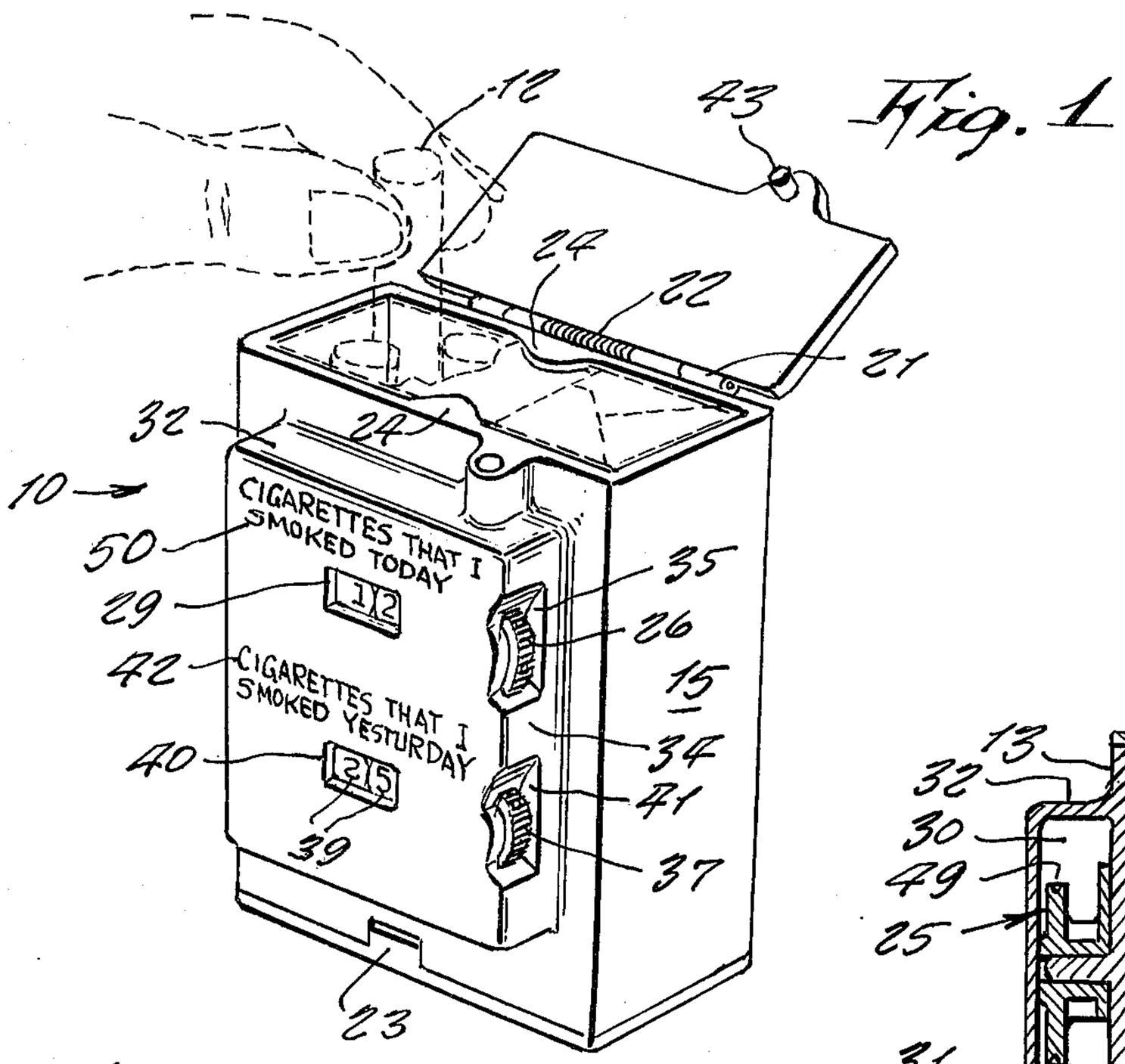


Fig. 1

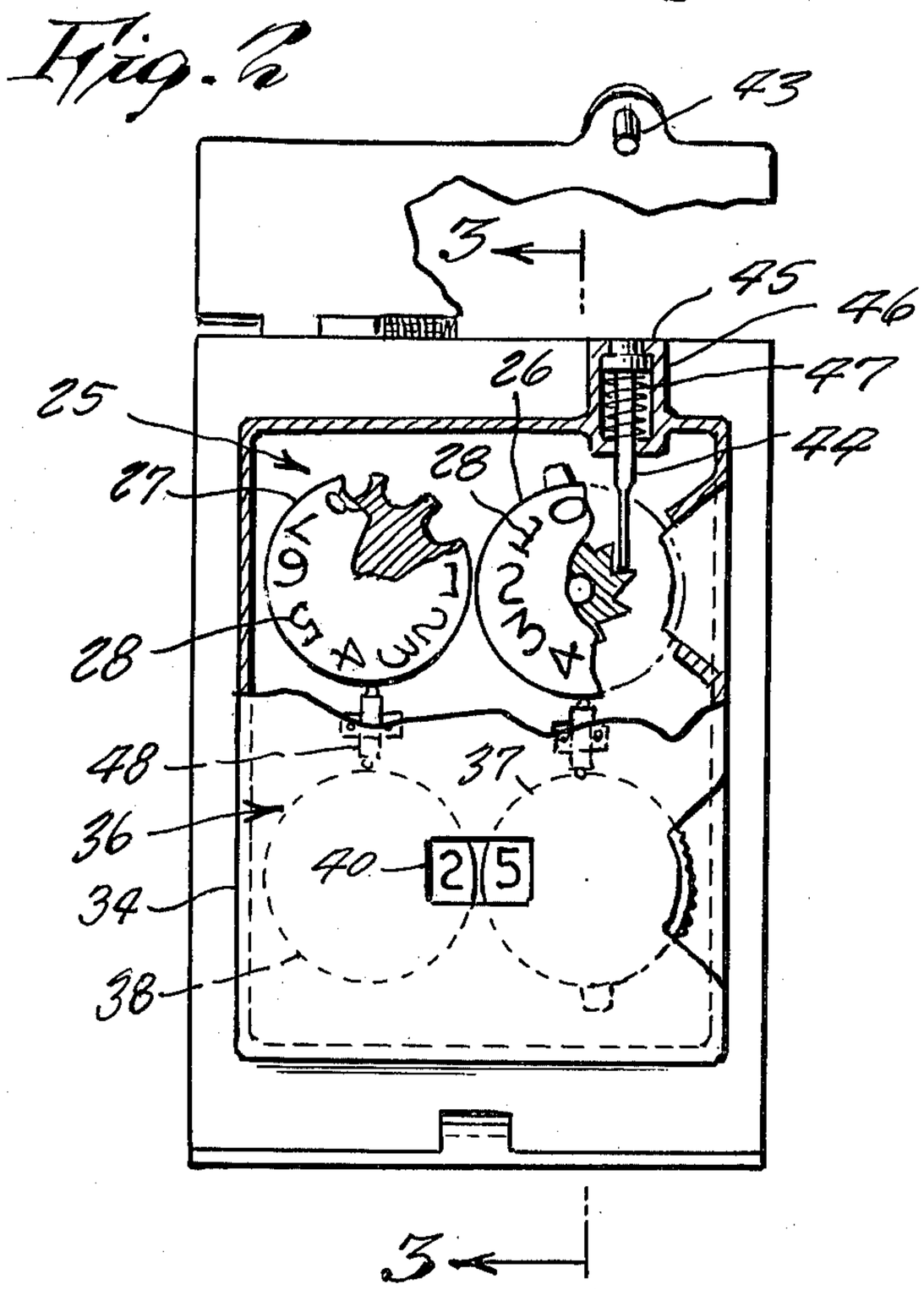


Fig. 2

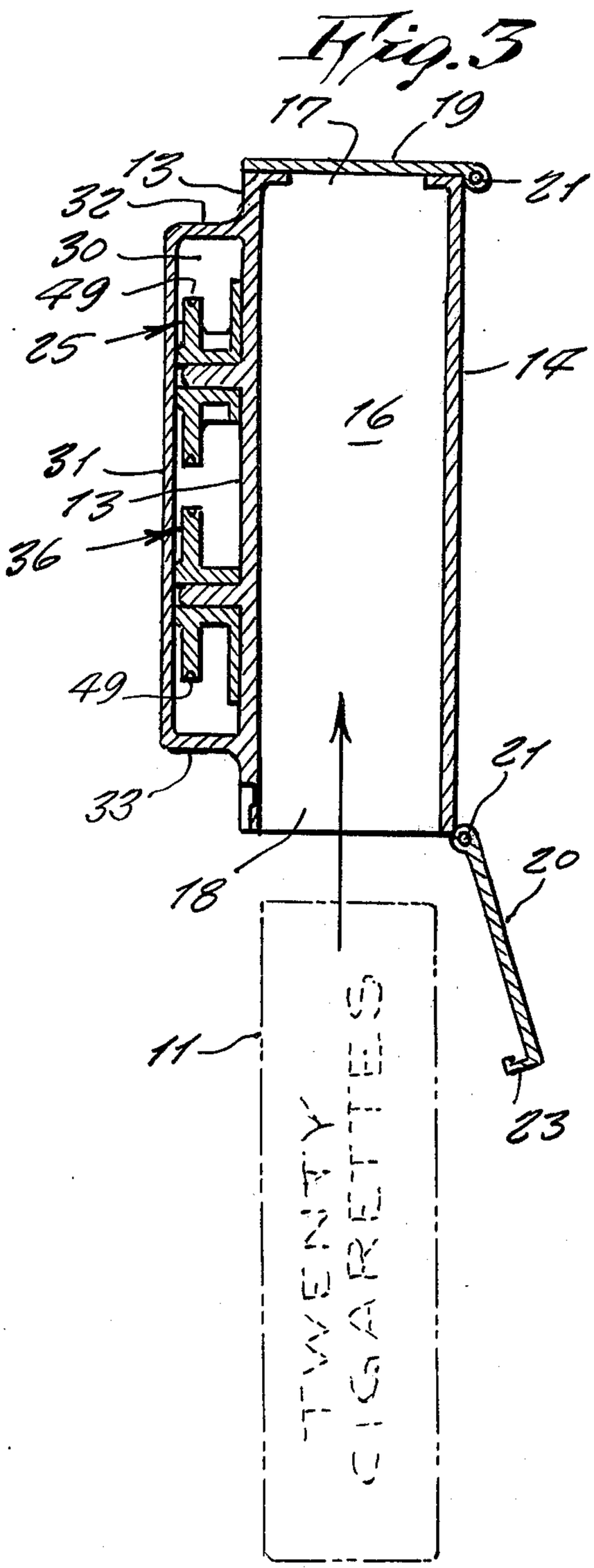


Fig. 3

CIGARETTE COUNTING CASE

This invention relates generally to cigarette cases such as may be carried on a person and which contain a pack of cigarettes.

It is well known that numerous cigarette smokers are presently trying hard to break their habit of cigarette smoking particularly in view of the recent decision of the government surgeon-general that cigarette smoking may be harmful to a person's health. Numerous medical authorities have proved that there is a greater incidence of lung and throat cancer among smokers than among non-smokers. Furthermore, the habit is costly to support particularly when a person is a heavy smoker. Thus numerous methods are currently being tried by smokers to stop or at least decrease the smoking habit.

Therefore it is a principal object of the present invention to provide a cigarette case which promotes the awareness of the number of cigarettes that a person smokes in order that he tries in future to decrease this number.

Another object is to provide a cigarette case which automatically records each time that the cigarette case is opened up so to remove a cigarette therefrom.

Still another object is to provide a cigarette counting case which additionally can record the number of cigarettes smoked on a previous day so that a smoker can currently improve on this figure by smoking less.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in he accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the invention

FIG. **2** is a front view thereof shown partly broken away so to illustrate the interior thereof,

FIG. **3** is a cross-section on line **3—3** of FIG. **2.**

Referring now to the drawing in detail, the reference numeral **10** represents a cigarette counting case wherein the same is of a size so that a conventional pack **11** of cigarettes **12** can be readily fitted thereinto.

The case **10,** made preferably of molded hard plastic, thus consists of a front wall **13,** rear wall **14** and opposite side walls **15** around a central compartment **16** having an opening **17** at its upper end and an opening **18** at its lower end each of which is closable by a door **19** and **20** respectively pivotable about hinges **21** having a coil spring **22** so to hold the door in a normally closed position. The bottom door additionally includes a latch **23** as this door is opened less frequently, and only at such time that a fresh cigarette pack **11** is needed to refill the case, whereas the top cover can be easily flipped open each time that a cigarette is removed from the pack.

Accordingly, the pack **11** is inserted into the case through the bottom opening **18,** the upper end of the pack being torn open so that access to the individual cigarettes is thus possible through the top opening **17.**

The pack is prevented from being inserted into the case through the top opening **17** by means of a pair of tabs **24** that block the opening, so that the top door is thus not opened up when the case is being reloaded with a new pack, thereby not effecting a counting mechanism **25** that is operated by the top door so to count each time that the top door is opened up so to remove a cigarette.

The counting mechanism **25** is of conventional type having wheels **26** and **27** with numerical digits **28** imprinted thereupon so to be moved behind a window **29** so to see a numerical total. The mechanism **25** is located inside a compartment **30** formed between case front wall **13** and a wall **31** located in front thereof and being integrally enjoined therewith by narrow top, bottom and side wals **32, 33** and **34** respectively. The completely molded case is maintained sufficiently thin so it will fit in a person's pocket or purse. A notch **35** on a side wall **34** allows manual re-adjustment of the mechanism by rotating, with a finger a knurlled edge of one of the wheels **26** protruding outwardly through the side wall and into the notch.

Another mechanism **36** inside the compartment **30** includes wheels **37** and **38** having numerical digits **39** for selective alignment behind window **40** of front wall **31.** Another notch **41** on side wall **34** allows manual adjustment of the mechanism **36.** A text **42** is imprinted adjacent window **40,** and in use, he mechanism **36** is adjusted so that a numerical total is shown in window **40** indicating the number of cigarettes that were smoked on a previous day.

The mechanism **25,** in operative use, is pre-set at a start of each day so a zero is shown in window **29.**

The mechanism **25** is automatically operated each time that the top door is closed, after a cigarette is removed, as shown in FIG. **1.** A short post **43** on the underside of the top door pushes downward a pin **44** against the wheel **26** so to advance the mechanism one digit ahead. Pin **44** has an upper end that is flush with a top wall **45** of a sleeve **46** integially molded on the case so it cannot be accidently pushed down. A compression coil spring **47** inside the sleeve normally maintains the pin in a raised position.

Both mechanisms **25** and **26** employ detents **48** to prevent the wheels from accidently slipping rotationally and disaligning numerical readings in the observation windows the detents engaging notches **49** around the wheels.

A text **50** near the window **29** indicates a number of cigarettes smoked on a current day.

Thus a novel cigarette counting case is provided.

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described and are pointed out in he annexed claims, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In a cigarette counting case, the combination of a first housing for containing a pack of cigarettes, a compartment in said first housing having a top opening and a bottom opening, said top opening being normally retained closed by an upwardly pivotable, spring-loaded top door, and said bottom opening being normally retained closed by a downwardly pivotable, spring-loaded bottom door, and said top door having a downwardly protruding post on its underside activating a counting mechanism contained in a second housing integrally formed on a front side of said first housing; said top opening including a pair of inwardly projecting tabs along a center of opposite longitudinal side edges thereof to prevent passage of a cigarette pack through said top opening into or out of said first housing thereby

requiring usage of only said bottom opening for entering and removing a cigarette pack into said first housing, said second housing containing also a second counting mechanism that is manually operated; said mechanims each including a pair of intermeshing, numerically calibrated wheels behind a window opening on said second housing exposing aligned numerical calibrations of said pair of wheels, one said wheel having a knurled edge extending in a notch on an outer side of said second housing for manual resetting of said pair of wheels; said first mechanism being indicated with a text

"cigarettes that I smoked today" and said second mechanism being indicated with a text "cigarettes that I smoked yesterday;" and said first mechanism, activated by said post, including a spring-loaded plunger pin which at its lower end bears against ratchet teeth of said knurl-edged wheel, said pin being slidable in a hole which opens on a top edge of said first housing, said pin at rest having an upper end that is flush with said first housing top edge.

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